

September 2021

DISCIPLE EXPRESS

Reflections from Pastor Kim

“...let the wise also hear and gain in learning, and the discerning acquire skill,...

Proverbs 1:5

I am a lifetime learner. There has never been a time in my life that I can remember not wanting to know more about, well, anything! Now, this can be both a blessing and a curse. It means I know just enough about just about everything to be a bit dangerous. It also means that I have spent many nights in my life (still do) reading way too late into the night, which leaves me a little bleary eyed for the day to come. This need to continue to learn has included learning more about scripture, the Church, and my role in the midst of that.

One thing that fascinates me is to read scripture and then dig into the context of what was going on at the time it was written. Why was this story important to the people of the time. What was the original words in which it was written? Do they mean the same thing today? Did the story have an ulterior motive or is it clearly directed by God? So very many different things to dig into.

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

Proverbs 1:7

Perhaps the hardest thing I’ve found to do with knowledge is to relearn something. An example would be to dive into new knowledge and then discern how that effects what I already know to be true, then draw new and informed conclusions to add to the knowledge bank. The longer I’ve had the base knowledge, the harder it is to think of the topic or situation in a different light. Let’s think on the familiar Birth of Christ story. In our youth as we are building the foundation of our faith, all the events of the Birth of Christ happen in one night, right? That is, according to the annual Christmas pageant! When we begin to age and read scripture ourselves, what an onslaught of emotion there is when we realize that our Christmas pageant story actually comes from more than one story. Then as we get older and the realization hits that not all the Gospel writers felt the “Birth of Christ” was worthy of inclusion, but instead focused on the life and ministry of Christ, there’s another hiccup. At that point there is yet another gut punch to our faith, or at least a realization that we may need to dig deeper; learn more.

“An intelligent mind acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.”

Proverbs 18:15

What I’ve found to be particularly helpful in my journey of lifelong learning, is having people to bounce my thoughts off of as I wonder about what I’ve been learning. That includes colleagues, friends, small groups and educators in many different levels and genres. If I just lean on my own understanding, I miss the depth of meaning in nearly every topic known to man. When it comes to scripture, in my mind and life, it is essential to have those folks in my life who I can question, safely debate with, and in all things, learn together.

“Give instruction to the wise, and they will become wiser still; teach the righteous and they will gain in learning.”

Proverbs 9:9

How about you? How do you learn best? No matter what age you are as you read this, your faith can deepen. Whether you are young, middle-aged, or in your golden years, deepening your faith is still very important. How we read and understand the Living Word throughout our lives, is indeed the “Living” part of the Word. Our age, our experiences and our culture all plays a part in how we experience that Living Word. Though it is timeless, it speaks to the people of every age, in every age. All of us can use someone to bounce our learnings off of, to help us discern is we are hearing what we think we are hearing.

How are you working towards learning more about scripture? What about learning to deepen your faith? I’d love to have a chat with you about how we can work on those things together. Feel free to contact me at any time to dive a bit deeper or to chat about what tools I may be able to offer for your faith journey.

Above all – DON’T STOP LEARNING!

Be blessed, be a blessing, and take someone with you on the journey! Pastor Kim

Missional Priorities: What are they and why do they matter?

When it came time to see who would be a good fit as pastor for Oakland UMC, the leadership of the congregation were asked to think of three of the most important things that were needed to not only increase the health of the congregation, but to equip the congregation to inquire of, and listen for the response of, God in how to carry out God's mission for Oakland UMC in the greater Oakland community. Once they had narrowed down and prioritized, the search for the next pastor could begin with a purpose. Are you in church leadership and don't remember the question sounding like that? Or maybe you've never heard of Missional Priorities. Well, let's break it down.

There are many facets to measuring the health of a congregation for mission; too many to tackle here.

There is also more depth than we can squeeze into a few paragraphs. So how about going simple? **Our Missional Priorities are to help us all be moving in the same general direction with purpose, prayer and patience, all for the glory of God.**

Each of the priorities listed below have multiple facets, each of which have their own priorities. To make sure we all continue forward together, that we don't drop details along the way, and that we have an end point and review system in place, we will develop Ministry Action Plans (MAPs) for each Missional Priority and each additional facet. They also help us increase our leadership base, and engage folks in ways we may not have thought of before. With a checklist like a MAP, we can consistently be in motion toward the mission God has for Oakland UMC in the community of Oakland and beyond.

How exciting to know we are moving forward with a purpose. That each step we take we are engaging more deeply in the development and maturation of our faith, and allowing ourselves to be guided by God as we carry out Misseo Dei (the Mission of God) in Oakland, together.

You will find our four current Missional Priorities below. These are living priorities, which means they may have changing priority over time, or have elements which we haven't yet thought of at this time. Over time new priorities will be added. These priorities are not developed to stagnate, but to be fluid.

Increase the leadership for Children's Youth and Young Adult Ministry

Heal the church and re-connect as a family with a sense of fun, joy and delight in one another and in worshipping God.

Explore a congregational care ministry.

Develop a sustainable stewardship ministry. (This is an added Priority that has come to the surface as time has passed.)

YOU are a part of this amazing journey. Please be in prayer for Oakland UMC and our Missional Priorities. Also, please prayerfully consider how you might be able to assist in moving forward with our Missional Priorities.

Family Fun Night

Sunday, Sept 12,

4-6pm Come when you can!

**Chautauqua Park
Concession Stand**

All Generations Welcome! *Bring Your Friends!*
Bring the WHOLE Family!

No Charge!

Meal Provided!

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

Menu

Hamburgers & Hot Dogs

Chips

Bars/Cookies Drink

Sponsored by the
Oakland United Methodist Church
with the Help of Your **RCA** Churches

Macedonia UMC	Macedonia Assembly of God	
Carson Presbyterian	Sharon Presbyterian	
Hancock UMC	Carson UMC	Oakland Christian



22087 390th St Oakland, IA

Join us this Sunday for 10am worship at the Applegate Pond, with a meal to follow.

Hamburgers, hot dogs, table service and drinks provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share, if you are able.

Feel free to bring your comfy lawn chair and fishing equipment.

Bring a friend to join in worship, fellowship and fun!

Pastor Kim will be on vacation

Monday, September 20 -
Monday, September 27

and

Thursday, September 30 -
Saturday, October 2

Please watch the Mid-Week Review and bulletin for information concerning who is on call during those times.

Pastor Kim observes Sabbath each Monday. In the case of an emergency please do not hesitate to contact her by call or text, and she will respond as soon as possible. All non-emergency calls, texts, and emails will be responded to the next day. Thank you for your thoughtfulness in assisting Pastor Kim with self-care in this way. It is greatly appreciated!

PRAYER REQUEST

Persons who are ill and those who have lost loved ones

Our Nursing Home and Assisted Living residents

Our homebound church family *Janice Harris*

Our military *The Unemployed*

Jeff Young *Joahn Jones*

Oakland Manor: **Oakland Heights:** **Heritage House:**

David Smith *Neuonia Timberman* *Connie Busse*

Ron Lockwood *Anita Killion* *Lois Bailey*

Rose Vista: **Allen House:** **Bethany Lutheran:**

Joretta Johnson *Bob Beckendorf* *Shirley Walker*

Food Pantry

Items the food pantry is in need of:

Cake mixes - Muffin mixes

Canned spaghetti or spaghetti-os

Ramen noodles - Pancake syrup

Laundry detergent

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday – Friday

9:00AM – Noon

If you need assistance please call

(712) 482-5530

Worship and Sunday School Schedule

9:00AM Sunday School

10:00AM Worship Service

Worship is livestreamed each week and is posted there immediately after the service.

<https://www.facebook.com/oakiamethchurch>

Several hours after any service the video should be available on YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEZ3Y0jN-zGpLxJ-BZbu4dA>

Videos are available on our webpage, most often sometime on Monday.

<https://www.oaklandiaumc.org/warrior-worship-recordings.html>



Each Tuesday from 10:15-11:15am beginning September 28, we will meet in the church Lounge and dive a bit deeper into God's Word, words that confuse us, and how we look to our faith as we respond to the things of this world.



If there is interest in an evening edition, that will be provided. At this time, we have had none indicate this was desired.

This will be an informal time of wrestling with questions we have together, and hopefully deepening our faith, as we look for answers together. Please bring your Bible, a notebook and pencil. All are welcome, so, feel free to bring a friend.



Help us update our records!!

If you no longer have a landline, please share your cell number with us!

During the month of September, the Noisy Offering which is received during Front Porch Time will be collected for



Giving an animal is like giving someone a small business, providing wool, milk, eggs and more. Animal donations can provide families a hand up, increasing access to medicine, school, food and a sustainable livelihood.

coolinsmart.com

Knowledge is only given to those who are willing to seek it.

Join Pastor Kim each TUESDAY from 9:00-10:00am for a cup of goodness and perhaps a sweet treat while we visit. Bring a friend – all are invited!

Come when you can – leave when you must



Pastor will meet you at



301 Pullen Ave Oakland, Iowa

September Scriptures

September 05, 2021	Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23	Psalm 125
	James 2:1-17	Mark 7:24-37
September 12, 2021	Proverbs 1:20-33	Psalm 19
	James 3:1-12	Mark 8:27-38
September 19, 2021	Proverbs 31:10-31	Psalm 1
	James 3:13-4:3	Mark 9:30-37
September 26, 2021	Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22	Psalm 124
	James 5:13-20	Mark 9:38-50

Coming in OCTOBER

Junk Food 'n Jesus



WHO: Ladies from mid 20s on up – bring a friend!
WHAT: Two hours of Food, Fellowship, and Fun
WHEN: One Sunday a month from 4pm – 6pm
WHERE: Oakland UMC Parsonage 831 Scenic Circle
WHY: Because...
HOW: Each person brings one of their favorite junk foods to share, as well as their favorite drink. Pastor will provide the table service and space to unwind.

“Everyone must take time to sit and watch the leaves turn.”

– Elizabeth Lawrence





Oakland United Methodist Church



September 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																										
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